

Mt. Hood South Side Climbing Conditions – [July 6, 2013]

Due to the recent hot weather in the northwest, snow and ice is melting on the lower portions of the southside climbing routes, but there is still consistent snow to the summit. In addition, large runnels have been observed on the steeper portions of the southside routes due to icefall and rockfall and glide cracks/crevasses have opened up wider as a result of the warming. With warming temperatures, icefall and rockfall dangers increase so be aware of changing conditions. Glide cracks are growing larger on the climb from Devil's Kitchen to the Hogsback. Use caution in these areas, especially when descending as it is harder to see the glide cracks due to a blind rollover. The Bergshrund that forms on the Hogsback in the spring has opened itself up and approach this area with caution as there could be a weakening snow bridge lurking. Most climbers are using the Old Chute route as conditions have been favorable. The re-alignment of the Hogsback is resulting in a steep traverse up and through the Pearly Gates. Though this route has been used by climbers, be aware there were reports of sections of steep, hard blue ice through the choke. The Old Chute route is more exposed than the Pearly Gates once on the summit ridge. From the top of the Old Chute, be careful traversing this ridge towards the true summit; there is a dangerous two-foot wide section of the ridge. To one side of the ridge there is a 2,000 foot drop, to the other side is a 150 foot drop. If you choose to glissade on your descent, remember to remove your crampons first to prevent injury, and respect other climbers below you so you do not run into them. When you leave either parking area, please use the Climber's Trail just east of the ski area to avoid resort operations. As always, visibility above tree line can go from good to bad quickly, making navigation difficult. Use caution and be aware of the rapidly changing weather if you choose to climb this weekend or into next week.

Please check the NOAA weather service and the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center for up to date snow and weather conditions expected on Mt. Hood. Also, web sites exist that contain anecdotal trip reports that may or may not prove helpful.

Spring climbing conditions can be dangerous and unpredictable.

Sudden storms, avalanche hazard, and high winds can happen at any time and may make climbing conditions dangerous and potential search and rescue even more dangerous. Those planning to climb should take all necessary equipment for self rescue and sustained stays on the mountain if it becomes necessary to wait out a storm. Avalanche rescue gear such as beacon, shovel, and probe is also strongly recommended. Mountain locator units are available for rent at REI and Mt. Hood Inn. Personal locator beacons, like a SPOT device, are also an option. Cell phones are a good idea but be advised they may not work in many locations. All climbers are required to pack out human waste. Blue bags are available at the climbers register in the Wyeast Day Lodge. Please adhere to a Leave No Trace ethic while on the mountain so climbers after you may enjoy their experience.

Short term weather conditions:

- See NOAA Mt. Hood forecast:
- a) go to - <http://forecast.weather.gov>
- b) type-in zip code 97028
- c) click on the top of Mt. Hood on the map for a local Forecast. Note the elevation of the forecast you are reading!
- d) click "Zone Forecast for Northern Oregon Cascades" for a regional forecast

Short term weather and avalanche conditions:

- See [Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center](http://www.nwac.us/) <http://www.nwac.us/>

Disclaimer:

Conditions on the mountain change rapidly. This report does not point out all hazards. Don't expect that what is described here is what you will find. These reports are from competent climbers who are sharing their observations at one point in time. You need to be evaluating conditions and weather throughout your climb.